

LIFE OF MONTY

#37

The 1983 UNOFFICIAL CHRISTMAS
ISSUE (only ENVOY has the OFFICIAL
CHRISTMAS ISSUE, you should know)

now 16 PAGES
still 50¢

Still in its fourth year comes LIFE OF MONTY, the name that's been throughout Europe on Gary Coughlan's chest....YOU'VE SEEN THE SHIRT - NOW READ THE 'ZINE!!! Anyway, this is from the flying fingers of Don Del Grande and his Olympia, straight from 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904, United States of America and ~~Grande~~ well, almost Grenada, anyway, which brings up the point "Why is it that whenever the UN gets militarily involved in something, it ends up costing lives and things don't change very much afterwards?" (Case in point: neither side scored any major gains in Korea, did they? And this peacekeeping force in the Middle East is quickly becoming a rest-in-peace-keeping force, isn't it?)

Before some of you start thinking that is a fake of some sort, don't worry - I'm still "one of the good guys". Keep these troops in Lebanon - I've heard about Soviet "peacekeepers"....they take a very large piece of wherever they're sent, if you know what I mean. (Remember Afghanistan?) We've done the job in Grenada - don't overdo it, you guys!

OK, I've satisfied the John Boardman-types and the Bill Highfield-types, more or less. But before Jeane Kirkpatrick gets any ideas about accepting Chancellor Heyman's or President Gardner's invitation to finish that lecture series at Berkeley (if they ever do, that is), she had better remember that the students are still out for blood (with a little help from the liberal-moderate Academic Senate out here in Berkeley) about El Salvador.

ROUGH-POLITICS-OK-AND-NOW-IT'S-TIME-FOR-SOMETHING-DIFFERENT-THE-SAME-OLD-STUFF-OK

Even with one (or even two) subzines, there's still a lot to fill in this thing, so a plug or two can't hurt....

DIPLOMACY WORLD - Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024, puts out this cross of your friendly neighborhood hobby and some real down-to-earth Diplomacy articles worthy of THE GENERAL. (EW is THE GENERAL's DIPLOMACY special issue without the contests - there are strategy articles, humor, letters, and an occasional Series Replay, called a "demo game" - and reduced down to size.) I'd tell you more about it....but DESPITE the fact that Rod calls LOM his favorite 'zine, I let my sub lapse! (Diplomacy strategy puts me to sleep unless it's surrounded with GI : ANVIL OF VICTORY and THIRD REICH and stuff like that.)

GRAUSTARK - speaking of Rod, he virtually admitted in a recent ANGUIN that, although Conrad von Metzke ran the first (or was it?) postal Dip game (it never got into 1903, though), it was John Boardman and GRAUSTARK which became the cornerstone of today's hobby. Just recently passing the 20-YEAR MARK (this thing's almost as old as I am), GRAUSTARK is a combination of Dip games, the occasional hobby news item, and John's latest views on world politics. (I won't say right out what John's spot on the political spectrum is, but in DIP WARZ, his character was taken in by "the Left side of THE BOURSE" (hint hint).) John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226. Also available: EMPIRE, which contains Empires of the Middle Ages, A Mighty Fortress, PRESTACS, Civilization, and maybe even Kingmaker, plus John vs. his VIC-20 in a never-ending battle....to find software. (A tip for you computer owners: if you ever order mail-order, NEVER use a personal check! That is, of course, unless you're like me and you want to wait 4-6 weeks....)

PLAYERS NEEDED - SEE PAGE 3
(see House Rule 15 and ENGLAND under "Stab of The Century")

HOUSE RULES FOR DIPLOMACY, including special rules for STAB OF THE CENTURY

1. The latest set of DIPLOMACY rules are used except as otherwise modified in these rules. Anything not specifically covered is left to the GM's discretion.
2. Your orders should include your name, the date, your country, the season(s), your orders, any press, and your signature. If I get more than one set of orders from the same person (for the correct country), the last set received is used.
3. Phone orders will not be accepted. I haven't the slightest idea when I'll be home.
4. Units without exactly one order will be considered to have hold orders. An invalid (i.e. missing, or duplicate) build results in no build; an invalid retreat results in a removal; an invalid winter removal results in a removal by the CD rules, with these clarifications: "shortest path" refers to the least number of Spring/Fall seasons, assuming the only units on the board are the unit in question and any fleets (which cannot move in determining the route) needed in a convoy; if no route exists, the distance is "maximum" regardless of actual physical distance.
5. 1901 always has a separate Winter mailing. The mailings are as follows: Spring 1901, Summer/Fall 1901, Autumn/Winter 1901, Spring 1902, Summer/Fall 1902, and then the sequence alternates Autumn/Winter/Spring and Summer/Fall. If a majority of the still-active players ask for a separation in their Fall orders, then Autumn/Winter and Spring are split into separate mailings.
6. There is no "standard set of abbreviations"; however, the GM is the sole authority as to what an abbreviation stands for. Spell it out if you're not sure!
7. If one or more players NER in Spring 1901, the season will be replayed as many times as necessary until all orders are in on time.
8. It is illegal to support or convoy a unit which is attacking a unit of the supporting/convoying unit's country unless the unit being attacked is legally ordered to move (even if bounced by a unit of the same country).
9. There is NO rule 9.
10. Concessions can be made to any country which controlled at least 1 SC during the last Winter turn on, or prior to, the vote. Draws can be made among any combination of countries eligible for a concession at the time of the vote. Concession/draw votes take place immediately before Spring and Fall turns (i.e. after Winter and Summer, so if a player makes a concession with his/her Fall orders to a country eliminated that Winter, the concession is invalid).
11. If a concession (or more) passes, all draws are invalid. If more than one concession passes, the countries conceded to share in a draw. If more than one draw passes, the countries on "x" draws share in a draw, where "x" is the largest integer such that no more than one country is on more than "x" draws, but at least two countries are on "x" draws.
12. PRESS: Any press dateline is allowed, but the GM will label the author of the press if it isn't clear by the dateline as to who wrote it. The GM has the right to edit and/or delete any press at the GM's discretion. Guess press is allowed, but the author must use his/her name as the dateline.
13. ARGUMENTS: If my house rules say that the GM is the sole authority on something, his/her decision is law. Otherwise, a decision may be brought to a mutually-agreeable ombudsperson, whose decision is binding.

There is NO PAGE 2 -
what's this, then?

- ~~THE GAME THE GAME THE GAME THE GAME THE GAME THE GAME THE GAME THE GAME THE GAME THE GAME~~

~~WHAT-NEXT-WHAT-NOW-WHAT-GIVES-WHAT-GOES-WHAT'S-HAPPENING-WHAT-BO-WHADDYAKNOW-WHAT-~~

CURRENT PAGE LIST: currently PAGE 3
(sorry, numbers 1 and 2 are full)

Virgin can't keep the pace, Fails to qualify

FNORD

Number 2

(Actual headline from the Eugene
Register-Guard)

And so begins the LOW debut of FNORD, the sub-zine for the truly
illuminated. Send correspondence to:

MIKE EHLL
136 E. 34th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405 USA

Request line: (503) 343-6874
If no answer on weekends try
(503) 726-6999

-WQ

For those of you who don't know, FNORD #1 appeared in IRKSOME! #29/30/31, but alas, I couldn't keep the production there. However, I got a letter from Mr. Del Grande who was "BEGGING and PLEADING" for a sub-zine. After taking a look at the three samples he sent, and considering his bribe (a free subscription and exposure to the biggest names in ~~hip~~the hobby) I decided it would be worth a shot. Admittedly, there will be some inconveniences, the chief one being that I just entered the University of Oregon this fall, and my schedule has been fairly hectic. But I won't let that stop me, SO...

PREPARE FOR INSANITY!!!!

A CONFESSION: I have never seen Monty Python's Flying Circus in action. In addition, I have not seen Life of Bryan. I will make every effort to rectify this in the future.

MARK BERCH DEPT.: What's this I heard about a summer heat wave? We got some of the mildest weather in the country in recent months. It really put a crimp in the festivities of the Oregon Rain Festival. (Jan 1-Dec 31)

GAME OPENINGS!!!!!! None yet. Eventually I plan to run regDip, variant dip, and non-Dip games. I'll probably take orphan games.

LETTERS:

MUSIC DEPT. I might do some reviews, but I hope you can stomach what most people would consider my bizarre tastes in music. Namely, I like anything and everything. Consider the most recent 45's I have bought...

"Spice of Life"—The Manhattan Transfer	"Modern Love"—David Bowie
"The Safety Dance"—Men Without Hats	"Burning Down the House"
"Tell Her About It"—Billy Joel	—Talking Heads
"(Keep Feeling) Fascination"—The Human League	"Dr. Backyll & Mr. Jive"
"Fake Friends"—Joan Jett & the Blackhearts	—Men At Work
"1999"—Prince	"Every Breath You Take"—The Police
"Dead Giveaway"—Shalamar	"Cum On Feel the Noise"—Quiet Riot
"Puttin' On the Ritz"—Taco	"Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)"
	—Eurythmics

SUB/TRADE/etc.

XENOGOGIC

NOTES:

ON GAMES AND GAMEMASTERING: As I have already told you IRKSOME readers, I am not an inexperienced GM, having done move-a-day games in high school, including variants. Quite well, I might add.

Games will be run in the zine, to keep my costs and your fees down. I still haven't seen Don's HR's, but I will probably use them for the most part. HMR fees will only be charged to those who previously NMRd out of my games, and (brace yourself—this is pretty radical) those people whose positions I have NMRd into...i.e. people whose positions I have taken over as a standby. The latter category now includes 4 people, none of whom are LCM subbers.

A FOOTBALL QUIZ . . .

Q:WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS STANDINGS BOARD?

A:ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

No, you haven't been drinking too much, that is actually the U of O there, tied for the Pac-10 lead. What, you mean the Ducks, the team with the mascot licenced from Walt Disney Productions? That's the one. At this writing, the Ducks have just upset #9 Arizona, 19-10, and although it's still very early, there are students here saving up for Rose Bowl tickets. I'm not one of them, though. I still have a feeling they'll revert back to their old form eventually, but maybe...

Some of you are probably asking, "Where the hell is Eugene, Oregon?" Well, let's see now; It's 280 miles west of Ontario, 32 miles SSW of Lebanon, 57 miles SSE of Dallas, 43 miles NNE of Oakland, 189 miles WSW of Mt. Vernon, 120 miles south of Pittsburg, 55 miles SE of Toledo, 220 miles WNW of Princeton, 120 miles north of Phoenix, and 125 miles SW of Rajneeshpuram. I hope I cleared things up for all of you.

Before I leave, an explanation of that headline. A few months ago, runner Craig Virgin ran the 10,000 meter race at the All-Comer's Meet here in Eugene. His intent was to qualify for the World Championships in Helsinki. During the race, however, his injured foot started acting up, and he couldn't keep up with the pace he needed, so he dropped out. Nothing obscene about it. Really.

FNORD

Starring—Mike Ehli

Director—Mike Ehli

Producer—Mike Ehli

Screenplay—Mike Ehli

Musical Score—Mike Ehli

Special Effects—Mike Ehli

~~Spads/FX/IL~~Credits—Mike Ehli

Wardrobe—Mike Ehli

Audio—Mike Ehli

Video—Mike Ehli

Lawsuits—Mike Ehli

Special thank to—Mike Ehli

This page - MIKE EHLL - er, PAGE 5

Well, now it's time for....wait a minute! Isn't this the last issue of 1983? (That's what the date says....) You know what that means! "Of course we do!" Wasn't that Kathy Byrne? And over there - it's Steve Heinowski! And there's Dave Graham and the captain, John Caruso!! That must be the WHITESTONIA INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST!! And....over there! That's....who is that? What's a Brian Dolton? And Jimmy Dean? Oh, MIKE Dean. And that must be Pete Birks and their captain, Pete Tamlyn. The PRINCE (AND PRINCESS) OF WALES' OWN DIPPERS!! (TWEEEEET) It's time to match stabs with the champions in America's (and Europe's) favorite game with wooden blocks (HINT HINT, Avalon Hill), the vanity sport of the mouth,

DIP BOWL

The FOURTH ANNUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS come to you almost LIVE from the traditional spot, Wheeler Hall on the campus of the University of California....not much of a crowd here. Ah, here comes somebody....

"Toady, we're talking about the effects of Norman Mailer on - hey, turn those cameras off!"

What for?

"Aren't you from 60 MINUTES?"

No, we're from DIP BOWL.

"That's in the Auditorium, you idiots! This is a classroom!" Into the auditorium....what a crowd! A capacity crowd of 800 plus ZILLIONS on video transmissions throughout the known galaxies and a few we aren't sure about - of course, some of those galaxies don't even know that this solar system exists, but that's too bad.

"For those of you new to DIP BOWL, here are the rules: there are two types of questions - toss-ups, in which each person acts individually, and bonus questions, where the team acts together. The toss-ups are worth 10 points, while the bonuses vary from 20 to 30. Five points off for huzzing in before I finish the question and answering incorrectly. Otherwise, no penalty for wrong answers. Of course, in order to get a bonus question, you have to answer a toss-up correctly - that's why they're called "bonus" questions. Hokay? (TWEEEEET) There's the whistle to start the first half. The first bonus is worth 30 points, and here's the toss-up: it wouldn't be DIP BOWL if we didn't have Dip, now would we? Everybody knows that there are 34 supply centers, and by now you must have heard that 25 of these are in a block such that each one is adjacent to another within the block. For 10 points, how many SCs not in this block are not adjacent to at least one other SC not in the block?" (BUZZZZ)

"P&P, Dean....Would you mind repeating that? And speak English this time!"

"You want English? Go up to the third floor - that's where the English Departmental Office is. ((By the way - that is true; the English Department is on the third floor of Wheeler Hall. You learn new things on DIP BOWL)) Can you take it, WINH?" (RRRING)

"WINH, Heinowski....Two, I suppose."

"Do you suppose that they're London and Tunia, 'cause that's what they are, and here's the bonus question: who won the F.A. Cup Final in - no, I'm just kidding, here's the real question: there's an upcoming DUNGEONS & DRAGONS movie coming up. You never see DIPLOMACY getting any movie offers, but, in the movie THE FINAL COUNTDOWN, another Avalon Hill game appeared. For 30 points, which game?"

(WINH talk it over, then captain Caruso speaks up) "WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN"

"No, it was SQUAD LEADER, which only goes to show that sailors have nothing better to do in their free time than to read rules...."

They could be reading PAGE 6

Let's skip some of the less important stuff....

"Who are you calling less important?"

Look, I don't care if you DID fly all the way from England, even if it was at the "Printed Matter" rates-

"AHEN!"

OK, OK, Mike, don't get so red-in-the-face. I know you came from Scotland for this fiasco - er, I mean, extravaganza.

As I was about to say, let's move right into the second half of play, with the Brits holding a small lead - 150-145, isn't it?

"The score is 160 for the P&POW to 155 for the WINH...."

I stand corrected. Excuse me if I sit back down so I can finish typing this thing....

"The next bonus is worth, oh, I'd say it's good for at least 20 points or so - actually, it's worth 25, if you MUST be specific. Here's the tossup: in THE CIVIL WAR, it comes after a pair of mixes on Indian

Attack die rolls-" (RRRING)

"WINH, Hainowski....Massacre"

"Unacceptable - 5 point penalty, and I'll continue for the P&POW team - in DIPLOMACY, it's what results after a certain bloodsucker whose initials are BK, but not necessarily in that order, plays Italy. For 10 points, what two-word phrase is this?" (BUZZZZZ)

"P&POW, Binks....I'll just take a shot-in-the-dark right-out-of-the-blue guess....Infamous massacre?"

"Just like Holmes."

"Sherlock?"

"No, that was SHEER LUCK, but you get 10 points anyway, and the bonus: at one time, SPI had three games that had titles of countries followed by the words 'Civil War'. For 25 all-or-nothing points, name the three countries."

"America, Russia, and, uh, what? I'll try anything once....England?"

"The first two are right-"

"Well, two out of three ain't bad, as they say out here."

"It sure isn't any good, since the third one was Canada, and you get no points for that one. The next bonus is good for 30 points - here's yet another tossup: for 10 points, how many ways are there for your opponents to wipe you out if you draw Austria?" (Pause) "Anybody?"

(RRRING)

"WINH, Grabar - it depends. For example, normally there are 720, but if I'm playing, there aren't any because I'm so good with that country."

"Either that, or you're so pitiful that you'll wipe yourself out. I guess that 720 is close enough - it could be 600, if somebody doesn't want to be Italy, for example. OK, here's the bonus: the only unit on the board is an army on one of the land areas that touches exactly one other land area. How long, for 30 points, will it take to legally move that army so that it passes through all of the other land areas which touch exactly one other land area?"

(Pause and more pause....) "Three seasons"

"Only if you're Moses - it's impossible for an army to move through Portugal, North Africa, and Tunis without a convoy. With time running out, the score is tied at 165, and with the next bonus at 20, here's the tossup: nobody likes DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS too much - mainly because people who don't play AD&D are too smart to fall for the D&D experience system. Anyway, for 10 points, name the six-" (RRRING)

"WINH, Grabar - Strength, intelligence, wisdom, dexterity, constitution, and charisma."

"That's right-" (GONG)

Upon hearing the gong, the P&POW team gets up to leave.

"Wait a minute! No gongs in DIP BOWL - whistles only. Who did that?"

Phyllis did, out in the audience somewhere. "Thanks!"

From somewhere in the audience: "You SMITCH!" (or whatever they say in NY nowadays)

"Anyway, here's the bonus: for 25 points, name SPI's five Battle of the Bulge games."

"WACHT AM RHEIN, BIG RED ONE, BULGE, BASTOGNE/WESTWALL, and BATTLES FOR THE ARDENNES."

Not to mention PAGE 7 DROPS IN ON
HITLER'S BIRTHDAY (actually, it's in April -
we'll wait...)

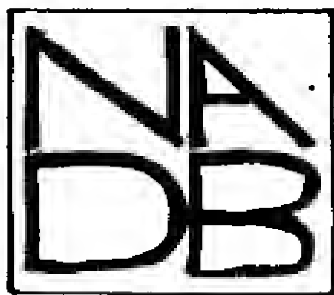
"We can't accept both BULGE and BIG RED ONE because they were the same game! The fifth game was BASTOGNE/ANZIO BEACHHEAD. The next bonus is worth 30 big points, so here's the tossup: you're in a KINGMAKER game, and you're looking for royal heirs-" (RRRING)
 "WLNH, Byrne - Eight, aren't there?"
 "That's not the right answer-"
 "I'm sure there are eight!"
 "Well, there are eight, but-"
 "Then I'm right. Where's the bonus?"
 "That wasn't the question! Five points off. Anyway, what is the minimum number of Royal Heirs available without a ship?" (BUZZZZZ)
 "P&POW, Dolton....American or British?"
 "Time's up....the answer is ZERO, if you're Stanley. With just SECONDS left-"
 What's going on? The BAND is on the STAGE! (The Stanford band, that is - they think the game's over or something.)
 "Anyway, here's the next tossup-" (BUZZZZZ)
 "P&POW, Birks....DIPLOMACY" (TWEEEET)
 "What a coincidence - that's right!.....It's official - the final score is 170 for the Whitestonia Institute of Nuclear Holocaust to 165 for the Prince & Princess Of Wales' Own Dippers - what? I forgot to add the 10 points for the last question? It's 175-170, and the P&POWOD are the NEW WORLD CHAMPS! Maybe next year it'll be FINCHLEY CENTRAL BOWL or something."
 You know that the WLNH team does NOT take things like this sitting down, so they stand up. That's better - those chairs are murder after a while.
 "Where are Sacks and Berch when you need divine intervention?"
 It's another victory in Berkeley - FIRE THE CANNON!
 "Everybody DUCK!" Light the fuse....here it comes!

. . . boom . . .

Well, that ends another year of DIP BOWL. Mighty close, wasn't it?

DIP-BOWL-DIP-BOWL-DIP-BOWL-DIP-BOWL-DIP-BOWL-DIP-BOWL-DIP-BOWL-DIP-BOWL-DIP-BOWL

Because of such a LARGE turnout, supported by TOTAL hobby support for this idea, which resulted in all of TWO entries, the INTERNATIONAL PAN-DIPLOMATIC MONOPLANETARY SUPER QUIZ has been postponed indefinitely.



1983 - 84 NORTH AMERICAN
 DIPLOMACY BOARD
 HOBBYIST EXAMINATION

No, this isn't it.....the NADB Examination will be presented in the next issue. There'll be a long deadline for this examination, mainly because I want some of you pubbers out there (e.g. Gary C from Memphis T, and perhaps guys like Welker and Caruso) to include a copy of the examination in your ~~mag~~ 'zines. (Well, maybe not DW....but then again, you are the guy that told your readers to watch for it.)

This is PAGE 9 - no, that's 9
 over there → then this must
 be PAGE 8

SUBMARINE WARFARE
(a neat idea for a subzine)

Ahem! Well, here I am. I wasn't really planning to do a subzine now. I had thought about doing this some time in the future. However, I decided to contribute some material to Scott Hanson's zine (Irksume) for his anniversary ish. And, just for grins, I did it in the form of a subzine, which I called Submarine Warfare. I didn't expect to do this on a regular basis, and Scott didn't have the room for this beauty anyway. But Don wrote begging me for this g a r - b & j. His groveling and sniveling made it impossible for me to refuse. And, thus is launched Submarine Warfare (Sound of breaking glass as a champagne bottle is smashed upon the prow. The bottle is, of course, empty. And, truth to tell, the bottle isn't the only thing smashed.).

I just got the latest Diplomacy World a few days ago. I opened it up and, lo and behold, Rod Walker says that Life of Monty is his favorite zine. Do you realize what a fantastic, great, fabulous, tremendous, hemongous (you get the idea, right?), OPPORTUNITY for me. If I do Sub Wfare badly enough, I can ruin LOM. If you are not reading this in LOM, I was so successful (at being bad) that Don refused to even run this trash. If on the other hand (four fingers and a thumb [yeah, I know, bad bad bad humor]) you are reading this, then I want you to realize that, no matter how bad you think this is, it is exactly what I was trying to do. Bad is thus good. Confused? Entertained? As The Bear said, "I sure am glad."

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Tic-Tac-Toe OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

A long time ago, in a Hollywood studio far away (Oops, I just realized that Don is doing one of these. But I so wanted to do this, that I am anyway.), some sleaze with a wierd sense of humor decided to try and cash in on that popular movie. So he made:

RAW STAR WARS!

Cum see Han Solo's Hand Solo!

See Princess Lea's little furball!

C what C\$ do 2 R2 D2! See R2 overload!

See Lea in chains. See more of Lea than ever before.
See Luke's light sabre stiffen and pulse in the presence of Darth Vader (Homoedipus Complex). See Darth Vader beaten!
See the emperor's fingers light little fires all over Luke's body. Will Darth Vader kill the emperor in a fit of jealousy?
Will Han lay a Lea?

(Enough already.)

NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN T-T-T NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN

In SW the first I did a little piece about one facet of life as a Dominoid (an employee of Domino's Pizza). Starting on the next page find the next installment in the chronicles of the only hobby Dominoid I know of, me.

If PAGE 8 is right, then this must be
PAGE 9 - how about that?

ACT II. Delivery Wars- This describes the least fun type of delivery. I am talking about nasty winter weather. Ohio normally doesn't have really rotten winters. But ever once in a while! I found myself delivering pizza in a little college town just north of Columbus in the winter of '78-'79. It was very cold, but I can deal with cold. It's the snow and ice that made this so awful. In one night I fell down three times on ice. The first time, I was leaving a customers house and slipped on one of the porch steps. I had already sold the pie, so I only had a few bruises and wet pants to show for it (from the snow, not what you were thinking). The second time was the most spectacular. I was going up to a fraternity house with three pizzas and six cups of fountain Pepsi. My feet slid out from under me and the pies and Pepsis went everywhere. And I am here to tell you they stayed there! Number three was the most frustrating. There was glare ice all the way from the drive way to the front door. I actually got all the way to the front door before I fell, losing the pizza, of course. I then had to negotiate all that ice back to the car without killing myself. I didn't fall everywhere there was ice. One apartment complex I delivered to had ice everywhere. The minute you turned off the main street into their parking lot, you were on ice. There was ice on the sidewalk. This particular address was upstairs. With an outside staircase. With ice on the steps. With ice on the handrail. I somehow made it up there with a pizza and four cups of Pepsi. No tip, of course.

As a matter of fact, most people complained because we took longer than usual. The ingrates. One street was so bad we couldn't drive on it. A guy called up and got mad when we said we wouldn't deliver to him. We told him he could have a discount if he would come and get it. He then said, "I can't get my car out of my driveway." We then asked him how he expected us to get there. He hung up on that one.

At the end of a night like this, I was usually soaked from the snow. My body was battered from bouncing on ice. I was pretty tired because we were really busy (What, go out on a night like this? No way, call Domino's. They deliver. Even in this crap.). But, of course, there was still clean-up. You have no idea what a joy mopping the floor is after being at work for eleven hours. I sure do.

There is one thing about a night like that. After going through the worst, little things just don't have the same impact. Stay tuned for further inettallments in, "The Life and Times of a Dominoid."

***** T-T-T *****

I have game one of the World Series on the tube right now. Is it Un-American to lament the games now being played in prime time? Baseball is an afternoon game, especially in October, when the evenings are ridiculous for baseball. Oh, well. Never mind. Today, our world revolvees around the video. Television runs this country more than I might care to see happen. The election controversy is just one part of televisions influence. If TV analysts predict a victory for a candidate, will they have created a self-fulfilling prophecy? I believe that there is a problem, but it seems to be what the public at large wants. Dan Rather to tell them whom to vote for. In a real way, we have gone back to some extend to the thinking that produced the electoral college in the first place. It was thought that only educated men should decide whom we should elect, so the election was only to choose those whom would choose our leader. Now, the educated men on TV tell us whom to vote for. An interesting thought, eh what.

No, no - the other way!

Did anyone see that editorial that Larry Flint published? He bought a full page in the Columbus Dispatch (one of our two local papers), and ran what he called an editorial. He proposes that the Korean jet liner incident was arranged by our government to arouse anti-Soviet feelings enough to push through Congress his defense proposals. He even says he believes it possible that the American congressman on board was a fanatical enough American he would have willingly participated in the venture. Is John Boardman writing under another alias? (Just kidding, folks.) This thing was real interesting that he wrote. What bothers me the most about the whole affair is that our image as the absolute good guys has been ruined enough with all the revelations of other CIA activity, which makes the whole thing at least borderline on the believability. If someone came up with incontrovertible evidence that this was indeed the case, I personally would be dismayed, but not totally surprised. I would hope that he is totally wrong, but I wouldn't mind someone taking a serious effort to be sure.

The preceeding nonsense was brought to you by the "Idealist Soapbox Company." I shall put the soapbox away and go back to frivolity.

oo

I have discovered what doing a zine (whether of the sub variety or not) is really all about. It is about filling up pages with words in a fashion that entertains. And, that is not anywhere near as easy as reading this. I have had this under construction for sometime now, and I still seem to have empty pages to fill. I suspect that, no matter how much material I generate, I will always find more empty pages to fill.

I read my first Whitestonia recently. I suspect that anyone who is sensitive had better avoid that crowd. The stuff written in those pages, while purporting to be humorous (I think), is not lightly done. They go right after you. I personally don't mind, and would not be offended. In truth, you will have to work really hard at it to offend me. Maybe I should run some kind of contest to see who can offend me the best. The winner receives a homemade bomb. Second prize will be a years sub to Whitestonia. And third prize will be something else suitably obnoxious. Since I have written this little charade, I should mention that I did enjoy reading the darn thing.

Since I am doing plugs (of sorts), I might as well plug the latest hobby poll. It is seven meters long and made of rough hewn wood. It was originally used in the last year kabor toss in Circleville. I have inherited it, and decided that just what our hobby needs is yet another poll. This one is great in that you don't have to vote in it or anything, and it still exists. So send in your non-votes for the hobby poll cum kabor, and the winner will maybe be announced here. (Is there a word pole?)

I just purchased a new game called "Titan." It is from the good lads at AH, and intrigued me. They gave it full-blown coverage in the latest General, so I checked it out. I like the game, though it appears to be another real time consumer (on the order of good ol' dip). It has the advantage of allowing for a varying number of players (2 to 6), though I have been hard-pressed to figure out any real way to play postally (resolving battles by mail would be a real time user, and everyone else would be sitting waiting for some time). If I could find some people who would be willing to resolve all battles by phone and just send moves by mail, I might be willing to actually try and run one of these things postally. If there is any interest, do write.

This is PAGE 11, if you turn it the right way

SW - PAGE 4
LOM - PAGE 12 ← We win!

WARNING

The last two pages (after this one) are a letter column. Contained in the column is a letter from Gary Coughlan which explains why he decided not to play in STAB OF THE CENTURY - an explanation which includes a few mentions of his feud with Dick and Julie Martin. For those of you who don't like feuds, skip from the end of Cathy Cuning's letter to the middle of the next page, where Eric Dott's letter begins. (Actually, it's a form letter with his signature....)

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

~~ELL-HOW-ABOUT-THAT-ARE-THERE-NO-BOUNDS-WHICH-THIS-ZINE-WILL-NOT-ATTEMPT-TO-CROSS-~~

Insofar as this is the UNOFFICIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE, here is yet another LIFE OF MONTY CHRISTMAS LIST.....

And to start off this year, the first present goes to JOHN BOARDMAN: A VIC-20 to Commodore 64 conversion kit, so you don't have to worry about the lack of support caused by the removal of the VIC-20 from the market.

To DICK MARTIN: A spell of haste so you can cast it at TSR to allow them to get the ANTIETAM monster game out in a reasonable time.

To JULIE MARTIN: A book on how to play wargames with hexes so you can join Dick alongside a WAR IN THE PACIFIC map - all 40 square feet of it. (That sure beats a Diplomacy board!)

To PETE & KATHERYN TAMLYN: A toaster. All newlyweds should have a toaster. Joan Rivers' latest album, "What Becomes A Semi-Legend Most", has a wedding picture of the Royal Family (at the Chuck & Di wedding) with Joan and a toaster put in. Now all you need is a converter to run a 120-volt toaster on whatever voltage is used in England.

To all you MASON-DIXON LINE FANS: See page 13, in the middle.

To KATHY BYRNE: A bigger place to live, so you can host those ByrneCons without turning people away at night....

To JOHN CARUSO: We just celebrated your birthday - what do you want now?

To MARK BERCH: A rug. New fathers shouldn't be empty on top.

To JOSHUA H. BERCH: A new holiday - seeing as how, thanks to precession of the equinoxes, the birth of the son of God (it's OK, I'm allowed to use the name, unlike members of certain OTHER religions....) is supposed to be celebrated on the first day of Winter, how about December 22 for "Berchmas"? Also, don't read the King James Bible, since your father was misquoted, from what I hear. (After all, in the original, Joseph didn't have a "coat of many colors" - it was a coat with sleeves, I think)

To GARY C FROM MEMPHIS T: a set of Nuclear Escalation rules so you can be in my last game opening.

To CATHY CUNNING: Some extra issues of CATHY'S RAMBLINGS so I don't get issues with other people's names on them.

To ROY HENRICKS: An on-time Official Gala Christmas Issue - of ENVOY, of course. Say, I have this leaky pipe....not to mention this tax problem (mainly, I don't pay any).....

To ALL YOU READERS: A bigger and better product at not much of a raise in price. Look, I've given you 16 pages for 50¢ - what else do you want? Anyway, I'll be around next Christmas - supposedly. Maybe at some hideous location, like Minnesota or upstate New York or even Los Angeles, but it'll be somewhere....

This is PAGE 13 - you have been warned

And now it's time for MEMOS TO MONTY a/k/a THE LETTER COLUMN

Here to start things rolling - er, crawling, is Cathy Cunning:

Did you get CR #27? I might have gotten you messed up, but I don't remember. If you didn't get one let me know and I'll send you one. It will be one of my reject ones again - Oh well you can't have everything, right?

Thanks for your letter and I send your questions to Mr. Ree ((the question-and-answer person, similar to Kathy's Kornor's question thing)). They will be in CR 3, I hope.

*****Cathy, I can't resist - with "you letter" and "I send your questions", not to mention your lack of appropriate punctuation, you must have had Kathy's sister teach you English in Arizona. Nevertheless, CR, better known as CATHY'S RAMBLINGS, is one of those 'zines that nobody is allowed to do without, even if you get issues initially addressed to somebody else (not to mention loaded with comments to that other person). Keep those CRs coming under anybody's name!

Now for a burning letter from Gary Coughlan:

I'll probably try and call you again ((he did)) but this is my decision after thinking about this thing for a week. I'm not going to play in any type game with Dick and/or Julie Martin.

When I called you last Sunday ((October 30)), I was at John and Kathy's ((when he agreed to play)) and I couldn't really express myself then because all of this was thrown at me at once. ((He had just arrived from Europe))

Don, I can't believe that you thought that things were well and good between me and the Martins. You read Retaliation and you read EE, supposedly.

I have just finished a game in Cheesecake in which Martin came in as a standby. His antics there made it unpleasant for me. I play games to enjoy myself and have fun. I wouldn't have that experience as long as he and his wife are in it.

They have written several letters to 'zine letter columns as well as private letters telling people about my "drinking problem" and even calling me "Memphis Drunkard". This is not something that simply goes away. It leaves bad feelings.

You came up with this idea ((of the game)) while I was in Europe and out of touch. I would like to know if you told Kathy and/or the Martins that I would also be in the game that you were planning? I can't think of any reason why the Martins would want to be in a game with me as our feelings are of mutual extreme dislike. And Kathy should have known this especially. Since last winter I have become quite used to having my feelings rode rough-shod over and being belittled for feeling hurt. I don't know why people can't respect my feelings and get it through their heads that the situation between Martin and me is permanent and not going to change. I try to keep a low profile about the bad feelings (I usually answer any of his "cute" comments in other letter columns) but they are real and are there nevertheless.

I realize that people refer Dick Martin to me and will overlook anything he does, no matter how cruel, simply because he is "Dick Martin." I am very tired of fighting against this so I won't even try any longer to do so.

So, I won't be in this game. You have 6 or 7 people in it so I'm quite sure you won't have any trouble at all filling it quickly.

I will continue to be on your waiting list for another Diplomacy game, either regular or variant because I do want to play under you as a GM. Thanks for understanding.

*****Let's start from the beginning....first of all, I'm not going to go through this Martin & Martin vs. Coughlan thing from Round 1. You can read back issues of Retaliation and Europa Express for that. When I first came up with the idea, the only person I told

it wasn't PAGE 14, that's for sure

about it was Kathy Byrne. I then saw something in Retaliation about "Ieapo Stabo" which said that Kathy was willing to be in the game, and mentioned Gary as well as Dick and Julie. That's when I asked Dick and Julie to be in the game. Here is Dick's response in Retaliation:

"Sounds greet to me - I'll go for it. Julie may even play, if I ask her really nice and promise her that she doesn't have to write to Gary. No, she doesn't even have to get any letters from him (not that either one of us would anyway)...."

To tell you the truth, I assumed that things between Gary and the Martins had cooled down a bit - not exactly a full truce, but more of a cease-fire. (Now I know better. My load at school has been a little large to pay too much attention to the hobby lately.)

I assume that when Gary said that "people prefer Dick Martin to me", he meant "some people prefer". I certainly don't "prefer" either of you over the other.

As to being able to fill the game, see the game start announcement elsewhere in this issue. As to being on my waiting list, I hope you know how to play NUCLEAR WAR and NUCLEAR ESCALATION, because those are the only openings I have at the moment (except for PENNANT RACE, but I don't think you'd be interested in that.)

Getting off of the point for a minute....there's been a "mini-feud" over where the Mason-Dixon line is. The 1984 OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC says that it is the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland. Also, Gary has been complaining that the USFL Memphis team is called the "Showboats" and not the "Hound Dogs". Hound Dogs may be a better name (it sounds better to me), but since Memphis is the home of Elvis Presley, who had a famous song called "Hound Dog", and President Reagan is being pressured into asking for a law to protect the estates of dead performers' identities, calling the team the Hound Dogs may end up costing the team a fortune in royalties to the Presley estate. Besides, you can't talk "name sense" to a league with a team called the Oakland Invaders!

And now for a letter from A. Eric Dott, president of Avalon Hill:

It is with deep regret that we announce that ALL-STAR REPLAY is being discontinued. We did everything possible to increase circulation - including changing editors.

We are enclosing a Credit Voucher showing the cash value of the unexpired portion of your subscription.

If you desire a cash refund, please check the appropriate box and we will immediately forward a check to you for the actual value of the unexpired portion. If you choose your refund in merchandise, you get back double the value of your unexpired portion.

*****The enclosed voucher was for \$11 in cash, or \$22 in merchandise. Guess which one I'm taking? Anyway, I'm surprised - I didn't realize that ASR was in any trouble. Then again, I never realized that SPI was ever in any trouble until I heard that TSR had taken over. At least Avalon Hill lets its subbers know about it! Then again, AH could afford to!

Well, that ends yet another issue. Expect the next one early in 1984 so I can get around the Christmas non-rush. And if the USPS isn't thinking about raising airmail rates, why are there new 35¢ stamps?

PARTING NOTES: Did you notice that FAME has done the impossible and put more emphasis than they used to on the dancing? (Don't believe me? Why did the two students who provided most of the classical music suddenly leave the school, to be replaced by a dancer and someone who wants to be one?) Until 1984....keep the pointy end away from you.

And keep PAGE 15 toward you

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DON DEL GRANDE

